

Marshall University

**Marshall Digital Scholar**

---

0064: Marshall University Oral History  
Collection

Digitized Manuscript Collections

---

1986

## Oral History Interview: Elinore Taylor & Nancy Taylor

Elinore Taylor

Follow this and additional works at: [https://mds.marshall.edu/oral\\_history](https://mds.marshall.edu/oral_history)

---

### Recommended Citation

Marshall University Special Collections, OH64-293, Huntington, WV.

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the Digitized Manuscript Collections at Marshall Digital Scholar. It has been accepted for inclusion in 0064: Marshall University Oral History Collection by an authorized administrator of Marshall Digital Scholar. For more information, please contact [zhangj@marshall.edu](mailto:zhangj@marshall.edu).



MARSHALL UNIVERSITY

HUNTINGTON, WEST VIRGINIA 25701

JAMES E. MORROW LIBRARY

ORAL HISTORY

GIFT AND RELEASE AGREEMENT

I, ELINORE TAYLOR, the undersigned,  
of HUNTINGTON, County of CABELL, State  
of WEST VIRGINIA, grant, convey, and transfer  
to the James E. Morrow Library Associates, a division of  
The Marshall University Foundation, INC., an educational and  
eleemosynary institution, all my right, title, interest, and  
literary property rights in and to my testimony recorded on  
DECEMBER 3, 1986, to be used for scholarly  
purposes, including study and rights to reproduction.

E. T. Open and usable immediately.  
(initial)  
Open and usable after my review.  
(initial)  
Closed for a period of \_\_\_\_\_ years.  
(initial)  
Closed for my lifetime.  
(initial)  
Closed for my lifetime unless special  
(initial) permission is gained from me or my  
assigns.

DATE 12/3/86

Elinore Taylor  
(Signature - Interviewee)

Homerwood, Kennon Lane  
(Address)

Huntington

DATE 12/3/86

[Signature]  
(Signature - Witness)

COMPLETED

Taylor, Elinore  
mu H-40

MUH. 40

MARSHALL UNIVERSITY HISTORY

AN ORAL INTERVIEW WITH: Elinore Taylor

CONDUCTED BY: John Hennen, Jr.

DATE OF INTERVIEW: December 3, 1986

John: This is Thursday, December 3rd, 1986, this is John Hennen for the Oral History, Marshall University Oral History office. I'm at the home of Nancy and Elinore Taylor, called Homeward, right? On Kennen Lane in Huntington. Tonight I'll be conducting an interview with Elinore Taylor, professor of English at Marshall. First we'll get some family background, and then we'll go into Elinore's life in Huntington and career at Marshall College and Marshall, well, you started teaching at Marshall University, right? (yeah) Okay, uh, when and where were you born, Elinore? And uh, give a little background on your family.

Elinore: I was born in 1929, it was just the height of the depression in Huntington here, in Cabell County. I was the youngest in my family, there was six of us, six children.

John: And what uh, what kind of occupation was your parents involved with?

Elinore: My father was in politics, always interested in politics. He was a real estate, in real estate and uh, helped to develop much of the area, laid out the streets in Huntington, I think, and my mother's family had been here the longest. I guess my father's father came here after the civil war, because he was a southerner and he had the, he lost everything, so he came down the river on a barge and they settled in what's called, what was called uh, what was it? Central City? Central City down in the west of Huntington, which was the original part. And my father grew up there. My mother's family came here, they were one of the six or eight families that came here with the, when they had Holderby's Landing, people then would have a home out on the river and then they'd usually have a home back in the hills for the summer time, where it was cooler. And so their home was sort of where the DAR cabin is now. That cabin was on land that they have there. (over in Ritter Park?) Yeah, right.

John: How about this house? Did your family build this house?

Elinore: Well, this, this was on land at my grandmother Hawkins' people had out of well, out towards, going beyond Lavelette, that was on my mother's side of the family. My father had the house and logs numbered and the house knocked down and brought in and set up on this land that he had here, and so, the downstairs part and the upstairs and these two rooms is original. But the back end has been added to, but these logs are poplar and as you can see, they've been split I mean, they're flat, they're not round, therefore these trees probably grew around here. We...We've always meant to date 'em sometime and try to go out and trace the original house. Which would have been out in Wayne County, Nancy? But it's about uh, we figure around 1820's or '30's that the logs come from.

John: And has the house been added on to?

Elinore: Yeah, yeah, a lot. Originally they would build 'em with a room downstairs and up, and the two over there where the dining



room and the bedroom above it and then they would have a breezeway in the middle and you can see on the log in the hall there, you can see the dark place where the stairs went up to the second floor. They would call it, around here they wouldn't call it a breezeway, they'd call it a dogtrop. (right, yeah)

John: Now you mentioned your father was interested in politics (right), everybody that knows you knows that you're interested in politics....

Elinore: That's where it came from, I'm sure. He was a well, of course, his father, who came here from down south in North Carolina, became a judge here, so he grew up around that sort of thing. His older brother, who was a doctor here, Truhart Taylor, was in politics with Herbert Fitzpatrick, and Fitzpatrick was always a big wheeler-dealer around here. And so my dad kind of came by it naturally. He ran for the state legislature and served there as a senator. He was a sheriff at one time. And lost to a very fine man, Mr. Neal, as ...for Mayor of Huntington by about a hundred votes at one time. (dog barking in background) Hound of the Baskervilles there! (laughter)

John: About what time was that, when he ran for mayor?

Elinore: Do you know, Nancy, the year he ran for mayor?  
Nance...sorry.... Do you know when he ran for mayor, Nancy?  
19...

Nancy: Uh, no, he was...(how old was you?)....he was chairman of the democratic party when they ...when they...John W. Davis ran and carried Cabell County....

Elinore: He was defeated everywhere but Cabell County.

John: And your father was chairman of the party at that time?

Elinore: Yeah.

Nancy: And John W. or I mean, Bryan (when William Jennings Bryan came here he said that....) at Halloween he spoke down at City Hall and said all the noise outside was terrific but you could hear a pin drop inside when Bryan spoke.

John: He was supposed to have been quite a speaker, wasn't he?

Nancy: Un-huh. Daddy went to Charleston down on the train with him.

John: Where did you go to school?

Elinore: Uh, I went to uh, Marshall all, Marshall lab school, Marshall model school as they called it then. Albert Jacobs (inaudible)...I went from the 1st grade to 12th, and then I went away to college and had jobs elsewhere. And eventually came back and took a job teaching at Marshall. Marshall I guess I was there

stop and he would put all the kids in, my two brothers, John and Ken and eventually my sister Marjorie, my oldest brother wasn't around, he was married by then. But all the other 5 kids he would put 'em all in the car and take 'em down in one stop and that's why I went there, 'cause that's what, he didn't want to have to tool all over the community. But I think the fee was like \$25 a semester, something like that, when I first started. And it didn't go really up very much.

John: Now, your nephew's Wallace & Setton, were they in the last...?

Elinore: Last graduating class from the lab school, and they decided that that wasn't...I don't know whether they decided it wasn't economical or it wasn't the way to train teachers or what, but uh, he uh, Dr. Hayes was pres, then the head of the education department, and he felt that they should shut it down, so they did. Although they had a great turmoil among the parents and the students because nobody really...everybody who went to Marshall I think, thought they got a really good education.

John: Now, you mentioned going away to college and working away, where did you ...you, as I recall you went to Duke for part of your college education. (yeah)

Elinore: But when I went to college, I wanted to go to Chapel Hill, which was where my grandfather had gone, before he went to the Civil War. In fact, he went ...he left Chapel Hill to go to the Civil War and he left with a body servant, you know. Somebody that went with him, and uh, was wounded in the battle outside of Richmond, and they uh, years later they let all those men come back and gave them their diplomas, so I thought that was very romantic, and I wanted to go down there. And I couldn't get in because Chapel Hill's a you know, state school, they have to take all the Carolinian's first, and they're a very good school, so they have a lot of people applying. (mmm-hmm) So, I thought well, Duke was you know, real close, it's about a half an hour away, and I'll just go there and then I'll transfer, and it didn't take me a, I wasn't at Duke but about two weeks before I realized they were arch rivals and you just don't hardly transfer from Duke to Carolina. (it just wasn't done, unh?) No, so I went yeah, I went to Duke for the four years. (and graduate work?) Uh, well, I worked ...I always wanted to write was what I was interested in, and so I would take jobs periodically to keep from having to really get nailed in to one. When I first graduated, I taught horse back riding here at home, and uh, did that for about a year. It was the hardest work I ever did, you know, had to drag these little kids around because they didn't want to kick the horse or something like that. So, finally I uh, sold that out after about a year, I sold the horses to somebody, I had about 11 of them at one time, and went off to Europe for about 3 or 4 months, on my manure money, as I use to tell it over there, from shoveling manure. And I've been in the shoveling manure business ever since. (laughter) I then got into advertising for the television station and uh, (that's around town here?) yeah, for WHTN, and

then they were sold to the uh, to Cole's was it that owned...at any rate, they changed hands several times and I worked for 'em about a year and a half, and uh, also worked for the newspaper briefly. Uh, (did you do reporting or...?) They always started you on the obituary column you know, and you would call up, the first thing you would do every morning was to call all the funeral homes and say, do you have anything for me? Just a charming way to start the day. And so uh, then went to New York for a while, and tried to do some writing there without a lot of success, and then uh, oh, came back and got into uh, church work, did church work for awhile, as a head of the DCE for the Presbyterian Church and took some graduate work, just to see if I could, you know, get back to school and do it, and uh, then went off to Boston and did a little work in religious dramas was what I was gonna do, major in. But the program was between the fine arts and the fine arts people, the theater people and the religion people. The religion people thought the theater people were narcissist you know, always looking at themselves, and the theater people thought the religion people were very prudish, which neither is true about either group but you just caught between them, so, I kind of gave up. The program got so complicated, so messed up that I came home and finished up my masters at Marshall in English. And then went on and got a ph.d. at WVU because Marshall at that time was pushing people to get their degrees or you know, get a doctorate or get out.

John: You mean, professors or instructors?

Elinore: Well, they were pushing instructors to uh, you know, if you wanted tenure, you had to be in a doctoral program. So uh, all this education I've got hold of was never really what I had in mind, but (laughs), but along the way I've enjoyed it. And I did enjoy the teaching, sure.

John: What kind of, you mentioned, writing in New York, did you do fiction writing or ...?

Elinore: Plays is what I, yeah, I've written a lot of plays and things I file away. You know, write 'em and file them away. (mmmh) And uh...in there somewhere I kind of gotten mixed up but somewhere I also worked for the Department of Welfare for and worked for the Department of Welfare down in Virginia, as a social worker at the Industrial School down there, which was called Bonaire. It's right outside Richmond. And the kids used to call it the good air school for bad girls. Bonaire was a pretty tough place. It was an eye-opener for me. (yeah) I've never been in any situation like that. And eventually, in fact, I stayed there for a year, and my father was ill, so I was gonna come home, and so the lady that ran the place, wrote me a marvelous letter of recommendation because I was leaving and she was delighted that I was leaving because I was...and then some little boy, some little girl got she this girl, if you ran off, you had to stay another year (yeah), and they use to take the girls up, if somebody ran, they'd chase them, put 'em cars and run out. The first week I was there, uh, (dog growling in background), this bell went off and I

was at my desk and everybody runs out and gets in. (inaudible due to bad section in tape)...chasing him and things and their car (inaudible)...catch 'em and just beat the heck out of 'em you and I know, and it was a mess, so anyway....

John: So, it was a state operated....

Elinore: State operated school, and at that time, you know, they had a black school and a white school, white school for girls, and black school, white school for boys. I mean, they didn't combine them. So uh, at the end, you know, just before I was to leave, this little girl ran off, and uh, so that meant she was gonna have to stay another year, and so I, I didn't live on campus. Some people ....(inaudible)....in the basement of the dormitory I stayed in, and the blacks served there and I never thought anything about it, and you didn't recognize....(inaudible)....but I just, Nancy and I just naturally got along well, we just...she had a marvelous sense of humor and so it was, one of the most painless changeovers. And then suddenly it was like scales dropping off your eyes, I suddenly realized you know, that uh, when she told me that she had won a scholarship here I think it was the DAR scholarship, I'm not sure about that, but anyway, that she had won one in high school, and couldn't use it at Marshall and she was about my age, you know, and so and couldn't go to school in her own community. You know, it was really shocking to me. And one time a group of us went up to I guess it was to Morgantown on a work, social workers meeting, that we went, four or five of us went into a drugstore to get something to eat, and this girl uh, one of the girls that was with us, and Nancy Wade was with us, Nancy and I roomed together so anyway, we went in this place, and the girl said, I'd like a lemonaid, and the waitress looked right at Nancy and she said, we don't serve negroes here. And the girl was so stunned, and she said, oh, well, I'll have a coke, please. (laughter) Nancy just burst out laughing, and then I did, too. You know, by then it was ridiculous to me. So uh, (inaudible...tape not clear...)

(quite a section of tape inaudible)

Elinore: ...out of the course of that, one day Olga Duff called, and she said Elinore, uh, and I had the flu and she called and she said, I want to look at a house on Wiltshire Blvd. She said I want you, would you be willing to call 'em and make the appointment because she said they'd turn me down. (mmmh) Well, I thought I'm sick, I can't do this, and then I thought, no, this is the first thing she's seriously asked me, you know, and so I'm gonna do it. So I called the real estate agent, uh, now I'm trying to think who they were, I don't mind telling you who they were either. Anyway, I called them and they said, yeah, I have an appointment, we could have an appointment, so Olga and Duff and I went and as we drove up they drove off in the car, we saw 'em drive off. So I just followed 'em right on down, went to (went to the real estate people), yeah, yeah, I went in there the next day, Toney's, that's who it was, I went in there and I said, why ...by

now they were was a law, this was against the law to do this, so I said, why did you make an appointment and drive off? Oh, you know, they said, we didn't mean to do that. They said, we'll go...let's go back, we'll go right back. We'll meet you out there, so they set up another appointment, we go out again, by now I have a cousin that lives in that area, she had caught sight of all this, she was calling everybody, and gettin' really nasty. And we, the feuding in the family's the worst kind of feuding in this area (laughs), well, we go back and the girl was there this time, she was with us, uh, she meets the real estate agent, and she goes up and says, oh, my key doesn't fit, somehow they haven't left me the key I need. What I didn't know, I was so dumb, you know, you'd think I'd know better with my father in real estate, but he'd been dead by then. I didn't know...they have a master key that fits any deal, so that was a bunch of stuff, too, so they just kept stalling like that. And finally, Olga said, she had taught at the high school, she (inaudible) right, oh, very attractive, right? (oh, wonderful) She went on and got her doctorate, she and Duff were eventually divorced and she went away and got a doctorate. I mean, you couldn't have asked for nicer neighbors, talked to your children, you know, everything. So uh, finally she said, to heck with it, I don't want the house, you know, if that's the way they're gonna be, and by now all the neighbors had been stirred up, some were really gettin' in a hassle. So uh, I wrote a letter to the board of realtors at the time, and I'm not sure whether the Bunch, Bill Bunch or who it was, but I told 'em what I thought of you know, the community, that they wouldn't, it would be that way. Uh, in my last civil rights story has to deal with not too long ago, they were gonna have a big homecoming here, this was one of the first one of those that they've had in a long time, everyone was coming into town, these blacks. Somebody went out here to the highway and they printed some dirty remark on the ...just as you come in off the interstate from Lexington, and I, I had a little Sunday school class, 8th graders, and I said, you know, I think that's disgraceful, these people coming back, bringing their children to their hometown, here's all that kind of stuff, and I said that's a reflection on Huntington. So I said, I think we ought to go out there and paint that thing off or do something about it. And then I got to thinking about it, these little 8th graders get out there on the highway and get killed or something. So anyway, I ended up out there scrubbing that thing and working on it...(you by yourself?) yeah, I couldn't get it off. Couldn't get...finally this truck keeps driving by you know, and it's the state road commission and here I am hanging on to the side of that little you know, thing, trying to get that thing off. Finally he says, what you doing? And I said, well, this thing is on here and I think it's a disgrace and I went through this long tirade you know, and he said, oh, yeah, well, he says, well, I guess I could get it off for you. He was the state road commissioner. I said, I really think you should, and everything. So by george, he went out and got some stuff and just painted over here. (that's great) But I never drive through there I don't see that.

John: I'm surprised they left it on there anyway.



Elinore: Yeah, well. I ...how long it was on there was not too long.

John: You've been involved in civil rights work and with the human rights commission, what else, what have you. What sort of reaction did that engender at the campus? Were other faculty members?

Elinore: Well, that, I was not at Marshall at that time. No, I, un-unh, I guess at Marshall in the 1970's uh, my first, my ...the first few years at Marshall I was so busy just getting the hang of it, you know, and then going on to graduate school, I was kind of busy in that, but I guess the first thing I did at Marshall was there was a world hunger thing and I told 'em I thought they ought to you know, make some sort of a gesture and cash in their, not get robes and things like that, but donate the money to world hunger. They thought that was the dumbest thing they'd ever heard, you know. You told me you know, I wrote some committee and nothing happened there. And then the next thing I got involved in I guess, really was the nuclear freeze and that was probably in '80, '81, after I got my doctorate, I had a little reading space and these kids came to me, one of them was Norweigan or something. He was going home, he was an exchange student, and they were gonna have this ground zero you know, this was going on all over the country, and they wanted us to participate. And he wanted to know you know, if we'd try to start a nuclear freeze movement, and he even had the bylaws drawn up for us, he was so organized, knew what he was doing. So when students come to you, I mean, and say, hey, to the adults, I thought it was kind of embarrassing that the adults were you know, leading the way, I said, well, okay, we'll go to this meeting. I think there were 8 people at the meeting. And then after ground zero, I saw that film, The Last Epidemic, with Helen Caldicot, and that's the first time that I ever realized that you could do something about it. Up till then, I'd grown up at the end of the 1st World War, I mean, into the 2nd World War, I was gettin' out of high school. And I remember being out in the park when the war ended in April in Germany, and we were all on a picnic, and we were trailing down to the Fredrick with the catsup spilling out of the bottle, and went up in the uh, Fredrick on the top floor and threw things out and rode up and down on the elevators and screaming and hollerin. And then that August, of course, they dropped the bomb and the war ended in Japan. And I remember a friend of mine, he...Macintosh, at Camp Allegheny as a counselor, she wrote me because that was her birthday in August, and she said, well, for her birthday they'd all gone down and jumped in the river because the war had ended. And they were all so happy and all, and now just recently, I started thinking about that, there was not one mention of the hydrogen bomb. We didn't even...my brother John says that he was home on leave at that time, he'd been, he'd served in Europe and he says he remembers the word coming and they thought they would not have to go on, he had thought he would be here for a little while then go right on over towards Japan. And he said the word came that they weren't gonna have to. So they were really excited about that, you know, that was good. And that's how everybody

thought about it. It meant they weren't gonna have to invade. It was only this year that I sent an article in the nation magazine, and they said, look, everybody in the top echelon knew as soon as they set that bomb off there would be no invasion, because you didn't have to invade. You had that bomb, who would be mad enough to waste all these soldiers if you had that bomb. The point was, could you convince the Japanese that you had the bomb and that you were gonna use it, if they didn't quit. But all these Americans, all these years argue well, we had to drop her or we'd lost all these men. But the minute you set the bomb off, that was it. As soon as they saw it would work, they knew if you saw that bomb go off, you knew there was gonna be no invasion with troops. You know, well, that just dawned on me. So I go back to the, yeah, you can argue with them now, they still don't believe that. But at any rate, uh, I guess I saw, I guess, the hydrogen bomb was just something that you didn't think about. And I wasn't very good in science and it was just beyond me, so I didn't think about it. I didn't even see these films people talk about where you're supposed to sit under your desk, nobody told us that. (oh, really?) No, we never got any of that.

John: We use to get that in elementary school.

Elinore: No, uh-unh, I didn't even, you know, I don't even remember thinking about it. And then when those kids came in 1980, now all these years, uh, and I saw that movie with Helen Calengot, and she said, look, she quoted Einstein, it's not a matter of physics, it's a matter of ethics. And I...she said, you can do something about it; you can stop this thing. And then I became to read up on it, and to get involved in it, and uh, I really feel like if the Civil War was the big thing my grandfather's age, this is the great issue of our age. And it stuns me now that I think about it, how long it took me to hook in with the great issues of our time. I mean, that is is. We either solve that one or, and I can't get what I can't understand is why I can't other people who in the old days, in the '60's, who would get involved in Civil Rights and everything like that. Because they have families and children, why don't they care? I mean, the David Pancakes, whom I admire (uh-huh), the Nancy Wades whom I admire, of course, Nancy Wade's bogged down with 5 or 6 little grandchildren she's trying to raise, and I know people's lives go on, they have families, and all, and that's not, you know, my I don't have those hindrances. But nevertheless, and even at that, it's the older people seems to me, who do get involved, of the one's who's involved, rather than the young people.

John: Yeah. That's another thing I wanted to ask you about. Over the time you've been at Marshall, have you perceived a shift in attitudes or uh, activism or political...?

Elinore: Marshall has never been very activist. I think the SDS was the most active. And right after all those people were shot at Kent State, (uh-huh), people, when I came, and that was early when I was first teaching there, when the young people were shot at Kent State because of ...when they protested the Cambodian

bombing (right), the National Guard went in. So at Marshall they painted things on the sidewalk, and they said they were gonna have big march, and I decided okay, this one, this was the first march I'd ever went on, this wasn't gonna go on. We were supposed to meet out in front of the Student Center and I went over there and there was many, and there was John McCullen's wife, Sheila McCullen, and their kids in a little carriage, push thing. I thought well, this is great, us two, we're gonna (nobody else was there?) nobody else was there. So, I started out, we were gonna march, so we started. And by the time we got down to the gate, I mean, people had came out of the shrubberies. They just didn't want to meet up...you know how West Virginians, I mean, appalachians are, they don't like to be out there in front, you know, and here, 'ole, who's that friend of your all's, riding along on a bicycle, basic contractor, I can see him now, a little blond boy, (oh, Bobby Ashworth?) Bobby Ashworth, here's 'old Bobby Ashworth ridin' along, I thought, I wonder if your daddy knows where you are. (laughing) So we march along, we had a pretty good crowd. We'd get downtown, we marched down (I was on that march, I remember that, yeah), were you? Were you with Bobbbby? (yeah)

John: Right after Kim, buddy.

Elinore: So we go downtown, turn left, go up past the courthouse and the police station, and don't you know, here's all the police standing out there watching, we go by the courthouse, I mean, the post office, the federal building and they blocked it up and turned everybody out. I mean, there's nothing but a bunch of kids and old ladies with me. Well, we weren't old at that stage, but I mean,

John: All the office buildings.

Elinore: You'd think it was some kind of...so that's Huntington for you. You know...(dog growling in background). Now I do remember the SDS. I have a good friend, Kathleen Cummings, who's a speech teacher at Marshall now, at that time she was teaching at high school. She was up at East. And she invited one of the SDSr's to her class. You know, or her student teacher, I'm not sure. And they were you know, she was gonna present both sides and she thought this was a good debate thing, and she'd been raised under Pike Compton and Hank Broh at Huntington High and you were supposed to deal with social issues. Well, I mean the whole country, the whole community went berserk. She had people calling her at night. One old man called her and he says, listen, you just teach 'em readin' and writin', never mind that thinkin' stuff! (laughter) She said well, how can they read and write if they can't think? But it didn't bother him. And so oh, it was just this big free-for-all, so, they decided they would have a big meeting and they had it at the Campus Christian Center, this time in the chapel. And I mean, that whole chapel and up in the balcony was packed. And there were about four people on the stage, and they had Danny's...well, they had probably Tom, and Danny Stewart both, maybe, I don't know. And uh, Hank Broh was



there again, and she may have been in the audience. I forget who all they had. But (Nancy speaking in background-inaudible)...Corky King was a big social activist at the Christian Center for a long time. But I mean, that was a big ...Huntington just really gets upset if anything slightly rocks the boat. And they're not uh, on the other hand, Huntington will forgive it's own on just about anything, you know. If they've known you since you were little, why, you know, well, they figure, that's just Elinore, or something, you know how she is.

John: Now, you know, I'm glad you mentioned that, because that's one thing that Dr. or Bill Cook was talking about the other day, that he wouldn't mind me puttin' on tape, I don't think, that he always felt, because of his local upbringing, a kind of protection, a sort of insulation from, that other people might not have enjoyed given his political views. (right) So, do you agree with that?

Elinore: Oh, absolutely, yeah. I think roots count more than the latest fad, is what they, if that's what you want to do, okay. It's just like the time you and I and all of us marched down there in front of the post office, just recently over Nicaragua and we had our pictures in the paper and I get this letter in the mail, and I thought oh, boy, here it comes, so I open it up and here's the picture, here's a little note from this friend, he says, Dear Elinore, I want you to know you and Nancy and John Hennen all go back to the same ancestors from Virginia. I thought, there's Huntington for you there! I don't care what you're marchin' for, it's that your ancestors...(laughter)...yes, that's Bobby for you. What did they do? They are kind of a little on the ancestor ....but they're good people, too. (Nancy talking in background - inaudible). Yeah, they're neat people.

John: Now, that period when the con...the SDS controversy was going on...

Elinore: Yeah, that was the most liberal at Marshall. That and the Civil Rights which because I was not up there, but Phil Carter and then when they integrated uh, integrated the White Pantry and Bailey's Cafeteria and all that. And again, the church had a strong...a guy at Enslow Park helped to integrate Bailey's. He went in there and talked to the guy and he went in with (Reverend McDonald) yeah, Royce McDonald. So there was some good...Judge Hereford yeah, \_\_\_\_\_ was a good, well, \_\_\_\_ was really great on the Vietnam War and uh, after Nixon was elected, we had a group of people from Marshall went up to the counter inaugural and Aurand came out, you know, we said we wanted prayer, and uh, this was in January, bitter cold, and he came out and of course, the t.v.'s were there, you know, and here's his pictures, and these paraders really get uptight, but he came out and he had the prayer. And he was you know, he was really supportive. And I said that Christmas Eve service I went to the Lutheran Church, even though I was working for the Presbyterians at one time, I said he's the only one that can get up and preach about peace on earth and dealt with a straight face, as far as I'm concerned, this year.

John: That's Charles Aurand?

Elinore: Charles Aurand, who's a real fine guy. And he is always been very supportive. And Judge Hereford, of course in the Civil Rights thing, he was, well, you know, he knew what he was doing as far as legally, he said he made 'em open up the community. So there's the big ones.

John: Does it seem to you like ...was there a substantial faculty participation in uh, in the Civil Rights or the anti-war movement there? Or was it just a few...?

Elinore: Just a few people, I would say. And it may be our fault. There may be more people out there, but we were just not organized right. I don't know. Probably more people on the Civil Rights. The Campus Christian Center had a big effect there, because the guy there, Corky King had come up here from Georgia, he had been the minister down there in ...the girl that's now the McNeil-Lair, the black girl, Charlene Hunter-Golf, and I don't...I forget the guys name, these two integrated Georgia. And Corky's home and his ...he and his wife, Marylyle King, were the ones that really took those two under their wings and you know, kind of gave 'em a place where they could get away from the ...and then so they came from there. He had to leave Georgia and he came up to Marshall and so he was always...

John: Oh, so he left because of the pressure down there?

Elinore: Well, it was, there was plenty of pressure. And he came up here and he was here at the Christian Center for a good many years. Now, he's since left ministering, gone into Psychiatry and is out in California. (John talking at same time with Elinore - inaudible).

Nancy: There was this minister at 1st Presbyterian, the assistant minister, who was he, he was injured in the troubles in Mississippi, in uh, (inaudible)....Dunbar Augdon. (oh, is that right?)

Elinore: Had a heart attack over that, didn't he?

Nancy: Un-huh.

[

Elinore: Was he at 1st pres....where was that?

Nancy: He was here at that time. (inaudible)

Elinore: I tell you...the, I've, you know, this is not ...I can't make any generalized statements, but the church people, small groups of 'em, have been more inclined to stick their neck out and take a stand, than a lot of the ...the uh, Marshall people. Although, some of the Marshall people who come from outside, you know, and come with a different attitude. But I'm talking about native Huntingtonians... it's usually the church people, just like uh, just like...David Pancake. I mean, he was going against

everything that everybody he was around felt. And he was doing it out of his convictions.

Nancy: Wasn't it David that ... (inaudible)...

Elinore: It might have been his father. I'm not sure about that. I think it was his dad.

John: I wanted to ask you about another episode uh, I'm not really sure about the mechanics of this, but the Marshall faculty uh, got some kind of, an unfavorable rating from the AAUP in the wake of the Bottino... (yeah, right, that was when I first came to Marshall), what was the uh; the events surrounding that episode? I always hear a lot about the Bottino case, I know it pretty much split the faculty (yes).

Elinore: That was my first year, so I had to say honestly I don't really know all of it. I heard different people say different things. Some said it was because the chairman of the department didn't like it that he, Bottino took time off and went up to some anti-war rallies in Washington, other people said, no, it was something to do with Bottino going around with somebody's daughter or something. And I don't know. It was all kinds of hassle there, so, I really don't know. I shouldn't even be quoted on that, since I don't know.

John: Well, Dr. Barker was the president at that time. '71, '70, '71, yeah, I'm sure he was. Dr. Barker came out (yeah, Barker, yeah, not Nelson, Barker, right, that's who I was think of, Barker, Barker was president when I came here) What sort of...

Elinore: He was sort of a weak, he was a nothing.

John: He wasn't too popular with the faculty, was he?

Elinore: Well, again, I was way down at the bottom so I really didn't...he uh, I think Dedmond was in there, too, was he then? (yeah, Dedmond) They had a guy, whoever, it wasn't Dedmond, somebody that was vice-president and I think really he was suffering from a brain tumor at the time, and the faculty really didn't realize it, but he would say the most strangest things, and everybody would just sit and he would...I remember going to a faculty meeting, he cracked some joke, and everybody I mean, it was just deal silence. They didn't say bad things, they just didn't communicate. They just and the man later you know, got out. And Barker there was a big hassle in the English department with Barker because we were selecting a new chairman and he wanted one person and the faculty was kind of split. But they had gone through this process and in the process we wanted him to name somebody and he wasn't going to do it. He was gonna put in who he wanted. And right at the end, then, he was resigning, so on the day he was resigning, he put in who we had selected.

John: Unh... (so it was interesting). What's your general impression of students now, as compared to students when you began teaching? Or students from any period really?

Elinore: Yeah, yeah. I don't know. It could be that I'm gettin' old and tired, but the students originally ...the ones who were serious and hard working, there seemed to me there was a lot larger majority of 'em. Nowadays, sometimes I'll get kids handing in papers, you know, the other day you were down there and I was having a fit, it looked like they just wadded 'em up and got 'em, fished them out of the wastebasket, and they uh, you know, they don't take any pride in what they're doing, seems to me. And I really think t.v. has done something to their minds, so that, plus we had a big discussion the other day, and they said lots, the students now see an education as a consumer product. And you're supposed to make it entertaining, and you're supposed to sell it to them. And it's...they're supposed to have to get it very cheap. They don't want to have to do very much work. And they really...it's like they want to be validated for passing through. And I keep screaming at 'em, don't talk to me about grades, I don't care about grades. I want to know what you learned. And I just wonder how many people get excited about an idea. You know, that's what I want in a class room. I don't care if they're "C" students or "A" students, if they get involved with what they're reading. And uh, I know that the things we've asked them to read in the past, I remember the freshmen english textbook was hardback and that thick and had all kinds of tough stuff in it, and then gradually the essays got shorter and shorter and they got more pop stuff, instead of classic you know, we use to read something like uh, the Death of \_\_\_\_\_ in freshman english, that was a story you would use. Now you give 'em four pages of not really, 'cause I'm probably you know, I'm probably generalizing here. And uh, I had a, Dr. Mitchell, the chairman, once told me he said Marshall's best students are as good as any students anywhere. And uh, the bad ones, you know, you just have to take anything. And you get kids that are really on the 3rd grade level, maybe as far as their reading ability, and certainly some in the sports arena. They're being done a disservice, they really should not be...they're being used. And then when they get through with them, they'll dump 'em, but they'll never be able to make it. Either in pro-ball or the academic world. You know. But the good students are bright and you know, fine people. It's just that the...the attitude, I fight it all the time, the attitude that I, that they're at school to get uh, some kind of a union card so they can go out and get a good job. I keep telling them, you know, you're here and maybe that's my, my background, my education, maybe I'm doing a disservice, but I keep telling them the job market's gonna change so much. If they bring in the flat packs right, that'll wipe out all the people that have studied to become a tax consultant. Right? (yeah) So I feel like education is there to ...to give 'em the background so they can move from whatever, into whatever job and have some ...be able to think...I really...I really educate people to be good citizens in this society. And to try to take an interest. I spend a lot of time having them write essays

on things about politics and issues that are going on, and you know, that's what I got. And I guess I'm passing on what I got.

John: Do you get uh, resistance from students for that, that they don't see the connection, they don't see...

Elinore: Well, I think they don't want to listen to me rave and rant, I try to make it humorous, and you know, by and large they're pretty nice. Every, maybe every, maybe I've had two or three that have really felt like that don't really want to hear any of this. Yeah, I push, you better think about nuclear war, and you better understand that your spending three hundred billion for military spending and sixteen billion for education, and what is that gonna mean to you and that sort of stuff. But I, and I manage to get that in with Milton and Shakespeare and you know, I think they tie in with that.

John: What are your impressions of the new Yeager program, that Marshall's pushing?

Elinore: Well, I had real reservations, but recently we've been talking about it. They wanted the English Department to come up with some special classes for this you know, and the graduate/undergraduate committee balked, kind of. And they said, you know, the classes we teach is just great and if you want to take 'em, fine. And then uh, they came back to us, and they said, look, they said, it's not that we don't think you're good teachers and you're offering good classes, but if you would offer some classes where we can put our honor students and our Yeager scholars and uh, maybe your top majors, they will be pushing each other. The peer pressure will make it...and you'll have a class of really top students, not a whole lot of...you just have maybe one class a semester like that. So, it's not that it's you all that need to be pushed, but it'll push the students. (un-huh) And I said, well, it if doesn't mean you're gonna bleed all the other 300 classes of all the best students, you know. Because that would be deadly, if you just have all the "C" students and then take all the "A" students and put 'em in this special class.

(yeah) And they said, if you all don't want to do it, it means they'll take that humanities option and go and take the classics, so you're always in the competition thing, which is stupid. So we're...I think, to make a long story short, we're gradually coming around to seeing well, that might be a good idea to do that. And also, they, I think are making some compromises in saying we're gonna feed the Yeager people into ...in with the honors people, and it's not gonna be like they're gonna have this little private world over here. Which I think would be disastrous. (yeah) I think the president's really more and more hearing that argument and he's beginning to try to adjust the focus.

John: Because that did seem the way it was originally perceived. It would create a brain trust or something, and isolate it from the rest of the students.



Elinore: And you know, pulling people out to do this when we're shorthanded already, doing the basics. So uh, I think he's hearing that, and they're gonna try to adjust things.

John: Do you think, I know you've been critical of the stadium project, sometimes, do you think there's any kind of an effort now to sort of balance the...what the university's gonna offer students in the next 15 or 20 years, and there seems to be more emphasis ...again on the Fine Arts center, recently in the last (yes) few months.

Elinore: Well, I think he has always been interested in the Fine Arts, you know. I noticed his son was in a program early and that's (Nitzschke's son?) yeah, and he's just a youngster, and they put him in...that was probably the theater people thinking this is a smooth deal, but even when he first arrived, he went to uh, started going to the plays and things which was ...you know, that's what Alan used to do, way back there in, who was the last, Stewart Smith, yeah. But you know, there's a big gap in there, when we had one right after another, and they just kind of uh, and I think this guy is, certainly with his experiences down there where you had the real run-in over the basketball players, they tried to run through. (was that at Las Vegas?) Yeah. That he's aware of the dangers. But he just sees there's a lot of people who uh, are interested in sports, and donate to Marshall, I guess he would argue that they will donate to an english department or the university as a whole, and not just to the sports. Now, I don't know if that can be proved or not. Uh, my concern with spending a whole lot of money on a stadium is you know, at twenty million dollars, when you've got Moundsville up there, you're gonna have to sell bonds, and meanwhile, you've got a prison up there where you're warehousing people like animals (yes)...

END OF SIDE 2

TAPE 2 - SIDE 1

John: ...if you could elaborate on what you were saying about Moundsville, I think that's important for....

Elinore: Well, I just...I feel like we're coming in here saying let's build a big stadium, you know, for a segment of society that wants to go and watch the football games. And I don't doubt that that doesn't, that does you know, get people, alumni interested in the university. But meanwhile we've got a prison up there we're just warehousing people, it's awful. When was it built, Nancy? Nancy went up there on a library commission and took a tour of that place and came back appalled. And I think you have a responsibility if you're gonna lock people up, now maybe this comes from working at Bonaire, but if you're gonna lock people up, you have a responsibility to see that ...that they are treated in a civilized fashion. If you're locking them up for being uncivilized, then I don't think you have the right to lock 'em up and treat 'em like animals. And we've got to spend some money

there. We need to spend some money on the mental hospitals, you know, and all of these things...if somebody's got a big wad of money and they want to donate it to a football stadium, okay. But tax money or bond money, I think you ought to do the serious things that need to be done. And I think it sends a wrong of all places in an educational institution, it sends the wrong signals to the students, and too...I think we teach them by our values, too. You talk about teaching them english and math and science but what about what kind of choices they see adults making. I mean, the students at Marshall are more adult than the ...than the community, I think, in many instances. I mean, let me reverse myself now I've talked about how in freshman english class they're not taking as taught things as they could, but I think in the upper levels and I think the Parthenon this semester's been outstanding. (yeah, it's improved a lot) And uh, you know, they've had a lot of good editorials about what ought to be important, and they're way ahead of the community. And that's another thing, the faculty kind of always pooch-pooching the Parthenon. Well, if the English Department had to have their work on display every day, you know, and have people able to pick holes in the essays they manage to teach the kids and turn out, I think they would think the Parthenon does a pretty darn good job, and the other thing is, that's one way you can communicate.

John: I like to think that some of this stuff that UCAM's done in the last couple of years, is influence the Parthenon a little bit. (right) Their editorial policy is or their editorial position is pretty...pretty enlightened at this point. (absolutely, yeah)

Elinore: You know, UCAM has done some exciting things that the faculty, now this shows how...how uh, not reserved but timid, the faculty is. They'll say, you know, become openly behind their hand, they'll say, oh, that was great was UCAM did, wasn't that great?! Then they won't get out and do it, see. (yeah) But they think it's marvelous, a lot of this stuff. Of course now there \_\_\_\_ in the faculty when UCAM painted that big graph, you know (mmm-hmm), and I think it was the economics department or somebody just uh, a business maybe, not economics (yeah, it was a business), but it was the business people and they just about had an attack, you know, but uh...the faculty really sup...thinks UCAM's great, and they think they're very activist. I tell you, I've learned over the years, 8 or 10 people can make all the difference, people will think there're a hundred people out there. It's like popping up bodies in \_\_\_\_ you know (laughter). They think it's this mob and for awhile the women faculty was very active. There was about 10 of us there very active. And some guy came along and before I knew it, we were winning elections, we'd get all, the women wouldn't come to meetings, but they'd all vote in a block, so anything we wanted we were getting, and this guy came along, he says, boy you women, you're ...well, he didn't know that I at the last meeting there were about 3 people there. In fact, we finally became defunct because we couldn't...

John: You know, that's the impression I always, I had had of the SDS, that there were probably hundreds of active members and

everybody I talked to gave me the impression, well, they might have an action and there might be 40 or 50 people there, but there was basically five or six. (that's right) Solid members that pretty much directed the whole organization. (yeah)

Elinore: Well, you certainly experienced that out of UCAM, I think.

John: Yeah, that's happened some. (yeah) Well, that's...

END OF INTERVIEW